



# House of Representatives

## File No. 640

General Assembly

February Session, 2006

**(Reprint of File No. 403)**

Substitute House Bill No. 5795  
As Amended by House Amendment  
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner  
April 27, 2006

### ***AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF THE EXPANSION OF THE ANIMAL POPULATION CONTROL PROGRAM.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General  
Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) The Commissioner of Agriculture
- 2 shall investigate and make recommendations for legislation regarding
- 3 (1) the expansion of the animal population control program established
- 4 pursuant to section 22-380g of the general statutes to include spaying,
- 5 neutering and vaccination services for companion animals owned or
- 6 adopted by low-income individuals, and (2) the needs of nonprofit
- 7 organizations that assist caretakers of feral cats. In its investigations
- 8 pursuant to this section, the Commissioner of Agriculture shall consult
- 9 with the chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing
- 10 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
- 11 relating to the environment, and at least one representative from each
- 12 of the following entities: A state animal welfare federation; a national
- 13 society specializing in companion animal issues; a state-wide mobile
- 14 spay and neuter clinic; a state dog federation; a state veterinary
- 15 organization; a state municipal animal control officers association; and

16 a state town clerks association. Not later than January 1, 2007, the  
17 commissioner shall submit a report on the commissioner's findings  
18 and recommendations in accordance with section 11-4a of the general  
19 statutes to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly  
20 having cognizance of matters relating to the environment.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
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The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

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**OFA Fiscal Note****State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 07 \$	FY 08 \$
Department of Agriculture	GF - See Below	See Below	None

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None

**Explanation**

The bill requires the Department of Agriculture (DOA) to investigate and make recommendations regarding the expansion of the animal population control programs and the needs of nonprofit organizations that assist caretakers of feral cats. In order to undertake these duties and submit findings to the Environment Committee by January 1, 2007, will divert 2 employees from current duties.

House 'A' strikes the underlying bill and the associated fiscal impact.

**The Out Years**

None

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**OLR Bill Analysis****sHB 5795 (as amended by House "A")\******AN ACT CONCERNING THE SPAYING, NEUTERING AND VACCINATION OF DOGS AND CATS.*****SUMMARY:**

The bill requires the agriculture commissioner to investigate, in consultation with the Environment Committee chairmen and ranking members and several specified representatives of entities, and make recommendations for legislation concerning (1) the expansion of the animal population control program to include spaying, neutering, and vaccinating companion animals (domesticated cats and dogs) owned or adopted by low-income individuals and (2) the needs of nonprofit organizations that assist caretakers of feral cats (i.e., free-roaming domestic cats with no owner).

The commissioner must submit his findings and recommendations to the Environment Committee, by January 1, 2007.

\*House Amendment "A" replaces the original file (File 403), which expanded the Animal Population Control Program and its funding, to include sterilization and vaccination vouchers at a discount to sterilize and vaccinate (1) feral cats rescued, kept, or owned by certified rescuers and owners and keepers of free-roaming cats and (2) dogs and cats whose owners or keepers are certified as receiving public assistance.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

**ENTITIES TO BE CONSULTED**

Besides consulting the Environment Committee chairs and ranking

members, the commissioner must also consult with at least one representative from the following organizations:

1. state animal welfare federation,
2. national society specializing in companion animal issues,
3. state-wide mobile spay and neuter clinic,
4. state dog federation,
5. state veterinary organization,
6. state municipal animal control officers association, and
7. state town clerks association.

## **BACKGROUND**

### ***Companion Animals***

The bill does not define “companion animals,” but under another statute it means a domesticated cat or dog that is normally kept in or near its owner’s or keeper’s household and is dependent on a person for food, shelter, and veterinary care, but excludes a dog or cat kept for farming or biomedical research practices (CGS § 22-351a).

### ***Animal Population Control Program***

By law, the program provides sterilization and vaccination vouchers for people who pay a \$45 fee to adopt cats and dogs from a dog pound. This money and a portion of the dog licensing fee the law requires fund the animal population control account, which covers the vouchers (CGS § 22-380f *et seq.*).

## **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Environment Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 22 Nay 5 (03/20/2006)

Appropriations Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 43      Nay 8      (04/18/2006)

Public Health Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 24      Nay 1      (04/21/2006)